

**REMARKS/ARGUMENT**

Claims 2, 7-10, and 16 are pending in this application. Claims 2, 7-10 and 16 are allowed. By this Amendment, claims 2, and 8-10 have been rewritten in independent form. The amendments made to the claims do not alter the scope of these claims, nor have these amendments been made to define over the prior art. Rather, the amendments to the claims have been made to improve the form thereof. In light of the amendments and remarks set forth below, Applicants respectfully submits that each of the pending claims is in immediate condition for allowance.

To expedite prosecution of this matter, Applicants have cancelled rejected claims 11-14 without prejudice.

Applicants have responded to all of the rejections recited in the Office Action. Reconsideration and a notice of allowance for all the depending claims is therefore respectfully requested. In view of the above, each of the presently pending claims in this application is an immediate condition for allowance. Accordingly, the Examiner's is requested to withdraw the outstanding rejection and pass this application to issue.

If the Examiner believes an interview in view of assistance, the Examiner is welcome to contact the undersigned at the number listed below.

Dated: November 29, 2004

Respectfully submitted,

By \_\_\_\_\_  
Ian R. Blum

Registration No.: 42,336  
DICKSTEIN SHAPIRO MORIN &  
OSHINSKY LLP  
1177 Avenue of the Americas  
New York, New York 10036-2714  
(212) 835-1400  
Attorney for Applicant

IRB/mgs